

MINUTES

In attendance

Board Members:

Ethel Mantzaris, Chair

Larry Barlow Assistant Chair

Norma Posocco

Annastasia Martineau

Joseph Strogoff

Staff:

Katherine Bell, Youth Services Supervisor

Sarah Dufresne, Early Childhood Services Coordinator

Danielle Annibalini, Youth Services Social Worker

Samantha Hengel, Youth Services Intern

Members of the Public:

Erica Bromley, Juvenile Justice Liaison for the Connecticut Youth Services Association

I. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm by Ethel Mantzaris

II. Introductions

III. New Business

- Erica Bromley presented overview of her role as Juvenile Justice Liaison for the Connecticut Youth Services Association (CYSA) in working with legislative bodies and Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) to increase youth diversion from the juvenile justice system.
- This is the first year of the new strategic plan by the JJPOC; previous strategic goals were to increase diversion by 20% which included changing Family With Service Needs (FWSN) referrals to remove them from the court system. Truancy and Defiance of School Rules FWNS's were removed in August 2017 and Policy/Family referrals are scheduled to be removed July 1, 2020. Both of these referrals will go through the Youth Service Bureaus (YSB's) who are by state statute designated as the "Community Hub".
- The workgroups continue to work to identify ways to make previously court-mandated services accessible through community referrals to support this shift.
- Interruptions to youth connection to the Juvenile Justice System for these such referrals will hopefully decrease further engagement in the Juvenile Justice System through connection to supportive community agencies and care as well as through use of restorative justice to increase empathy/perspective taking, reconnection with community, and lasting behavioral changes.
- Ethel Mantzaris asked questions about funding and mandates for Juvenile Review Boards (JRB's) to exist.
- There are between 88 and 90 Juvenile Review Boards currently serving 135 communities for their diversion needs in the state of Connecticut. Most of these are run by Youth Service Bureaus, many of which are not specifically funded but have been integrated into the standing work of the Youth Service

Bureaus and other stakeholders. There is not currently a state mandate for YSB's to have JRB's, however courts may still refer cases back to communities anyway and communities will need to respond. There is potentially some support and enhancement funding available through the Local Inter-agency Service Teams (LIST's) for connecting diversion-referred youth to various services that might otherwise be cost prohibitive for families.

- The CSYA, through grant funding, will be offering trainings related to JRB's, restorative justice, trauma, and vaping in the spring which YSB's and their stakeholders will be eligible to attend.
- There is document of JRB Policy and Procedures available online at the CYSA website.

IV. Approval of minutes

- Minutes of November 12, 2019 and December 10, 2019 meetings approved by consensus (12:37 pm)

V. Reports

- Brief review of December service statistics delivered by Youth Services staff. Impact of weather and school cancelations/vacations on various programs. Office-based counseling services are currently at capacity. Social Workers Danielle Annibalini and Kelly McKenney are still able to take referrals for school-based services at Mansfield Middle School.
- Sarah Dufresne has removed language related to perinatal mood and anxiety disorders from the Out of the Blue group description that will hopefully encourage more new and expecting mothers to attend.
- Sarah Dufresne has been appointed as a new member of the Board of Directors for Postpartum Support International- Connecticut Chapter (PSI-CT), and will also sit as Chair of the Support Group Committee for PSI-CT
- The Public Service Announcement group working on the Problem Gambling project is nearing the filming stages and there are many stakeholders in the state that are excited about the script and focus so far.
- The MY Pride group, led by Katie Bell and Anna Martineau, will be taking group members to the True Colors conference for the Friday as an approved field trip in March which the youth are excited about.
- Katie Bell is finalizing a new opioid mini-grant application with SERAC that would potentially bring an additional \$4000 to Mansfield to respond to the opioid crisis and help support the April 26, 2020 National Drug Take Back Day and NARCAN/Question Persuade Refer (QPR) suicide prevention training to the community at both the Library and E.O. Smith and other potential substance and opioid abuse programming.

VI. Old Business

- Ethel Mantzaris asked about the discontinuation of groups run by Janit Ramayko. Katie Bell shared that Janit had chosen not to renew the previous service agreement due to compensation rates and structures related to interruptions to service delivery. Katie Bell shared other local support services available that Youth Services is referring individuals for who are seeking those services. Ethel stated having asked Human Services Director Pat Schneider to put forth a request in the budget process to fund the groups that Janit had been running into the general fund budget.

VII. Other

VIII. Opportunity for Public Comment

- No public present

IX. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm

Next meeting: February 11, 2020 at 12:00pm